Meeting of Board of Directors POINT November 2, 1971

Present:

Don Aitken
Stewart Brand
Lois Brand
Bill English
Huey Johnson
Larry Klein
Jerry Mander
Mike Phillips
Dick Raymond
Les Rosen
Diana Shugart

The meeting opened with a discussion of the legal possibilities for POINT. Larry informally proposed establishing POINT as a "supporting foundation", since it doesn't qualify as a public foundation, and since private foundations are taxed so heavily. Under this arrangement, POINT would support Portola Institute, or possibly some other public foundation, under the following qualifications:

1) The purposes of POINT must be the same as the organization which it supports.

2) If POINT should go out of business, its assets would revert to the supported organization.

3) POINT would not be able to support any other organizations, unless their funds were routed through the supported organization. **

4) There would have to be an overlap in management between POINT and the supported organization; for instance, at least one director should be serving on both Boards.

There was some discussion about the pros and cons of using Portola Institute as the supportee; the pros being mainly the flexibility of its programs, and the cons the backlog of Portola's "dependency karma". It was made clear that "support" in this context does not mean financial support, but only that POINT'S funds would have to be used for the same purposes as Portola's. Stewart and Dick wanted to do more homework on other possibilities for the supportee, and some

thinking about what kind of organization POINT wants to be looking for.

Les reported that POINT will have something around a million dollars to play with by Summer of 72, and Mike presented some investment possibilities. Essentially, he suggested that POINT imitate the investment portfolio used by the Glide Foundation, which would guarantee a certain income over a number of years. Discussion included concern about white hat investing, the possibility of a wild card fund, and the potential power of non-white hat investing. It was agreed that everyone wants to avoid getting into a lot of hassles about how to invest the money, and Huey pointed out the need for checks and balances, and suggested that it was important to keep the decision making and the actual paperwork separated. Dick suggested that Mike develop a finance committee which would make recommendations to the Board, and which could include both Board members and possibly others.

Stewart reported on his homework of the summer, which included the death of Mountain Fantasy, due to inherent contradictions between creative use of, and proprietary interest in land.

The next possibility was that of a "Land Meet" next summer, along the lines of Alloy; for which he feels there is a great need, but no enthusiasm at this point, so that POINT might support such a project, but probably wouldn't initiate it.

Another idea is to form an "Agency", as an attempt to deal with the tendency of fat corporations to get sloppy. It would consist of a group of agents who would operate as individuals, finding and carrying out their own missions. The agency itself would serve mainly as a board of review for the missions, which would be evaluated largely

in terms of elegance and usefulness; the aim would be for a minimum of behavior/effort/expense with maximum results. Don pointed out that this wouldn't generate revenue, but Jerry said that it might very well create the kind of ripples that would feed money back into POINT.

The next idea was that of sponsoring a "Softwar Fair" in the Spring, in an attempt to begin building traditions of softwar, whereby some of the satisfactions and uses of war are attained without the killing. The basic idea would be to see where spontaneous play could go toward revising the concept of conflict resolution, and to build up a "table of contents" of softwarfare through the Fair. Stewart reported that the Hog Farm and Earth People's Park have a lot of experience in this area, and that the Hog Farm could play a major role in the Fair. He showed a film of a fund-raising event put on by Earth People's Park, and there was some discussion about possible sites for the Fair.

Stewart then asked each Board member to imagine that they had received a letter offering them a job doing just what they wanted to do, and to tell what the letter would say, who it would be from, what salary would be offered, etc. Everyone did their thing. Dick wanted to conduct a mission with a group of competent colleagues; Jerry wanted to identify where a good change was ready to happen and then trigger it; Huey wanted to establish a national land policy and support "freedom chair" scholarships to encourage committed, informed voices, toward the aim of survival; Mike wanted to be able to identify significant people, especially in the arts, and he wanted the letter to be anonymous so that his responsibility would be to society in general, rather than to an individual; and Stewart wanted to go work with Charles Lindberg in Hawaii on evolutionary cybernetics.

Stewart then asked each board member to write a paper of self-

determined length, for which each will be paid $250, deadline December 10; or $300 if it's done by November 30. A $100 bonus will be paid for the most useful and elegant paper, as judged by the Board. The general subject is "Destination: Crisis", or What To Do With Our Power - personal, POINT's, national, planetary, or cosmic.

The next meeting, hosted by Mike PHillips, will be held on November 18. Jerry will host a meeting on December 1, and there will be a meeting to review the papers on December 14.

The meeting was adjourned.

** Larry later clarified that it might be possible for POINT to support other organizations, if certain conditions were met.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Shugart

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